



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 391

February Session, 2010

* SB00391HS 032310 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES FOR THE
UNEMPLOYED UNDER THE CARE 4 KIDS PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-749 of the 2010 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and operate
5 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
6 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
7 who is working, attending high school or who receives cash assistance
8 under the temporary family assistance program from the Department
9 of Social Services and is participating in an approved education,
10 training, or other job preparation activity. Services available under the
11 child care program shall include the provision of child care subsidies
12 for children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of
13 nineteen with special needs. The department shall open and maintain
14 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer
15 such program within the existing budgetary resources available.

16 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
17 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
18 income up to fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except the
19 commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to seventy-five

20 per cent of the state-wide median income, (2) upon the request of the
21 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income
22 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after
23 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are
24 eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) on and after March
25 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per
26 cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and recipients
27 who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family
28 assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance
29 with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
30 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

31 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program
32 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and
33 eligibility system with preference given to serving recipients of
34 temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in
35 employment activities under the department's "Jobs First" program,
36 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued
37 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child
38 care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working families,
39 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department
40 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income
41 standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b), and working
42 families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and safety
43 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a
44 reimbursement system for child care services which account for
45 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the
46 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and
47 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by
48 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen
49 hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care
50 directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)
51 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended
52 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers
53 which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which

54 permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding
55 reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative
56 appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate
57 cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover
58 overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment
59 eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy
60 experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other
61 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy
62 program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in
63 subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with
64 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be
65 issued annually by the Department of Social Services to the Governor
66 and the General Assembly in accordance with subdivision (10) of
67 section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be limited to, family
68 income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such waiting
69 list.

70 (d) Not later than thirty calendar days after the date of receipt of an
71 application for program benefits, the commissioner shall process the
72 application. (1) If, at the time the commissioner processes the
73 application, the commissioner finds that there is insufficient
74 information in the application and supporting documentation to
75 determine whether the applicant is eligible for program benefits, the
76 commissioner shall notify the applicant and the provider of the
77 information needed to determine the applicant's eligibility for program
78 benefits. The applicant and the provider shall be permitted not less
79 than thirty calendar days from the date of the applicant's or the
80 provider's receipt of such notice, whichever is later, to submit the
81 required information. Not later than thirty calendar days after the
82 commissioner's receipt of the required information, the commissioner
83 shall approve or deny the application, based on all the information
84 received, and shall notify the applicant and the provider of such
85 approval or denial. (2) If, at the time the commissioner processes the
86 application, the commissioner finds that there is sufficient information
87 to determine whether the applicant is eligible for program benefits, the

88 commissioner shall, not later than five calendar days after the date of
89 making such finding, approve or deny the application, based on all the
90 information received, and shall notify the applicant and the provider
91 of such approval or denial.

92 (e) All applicants determined to be eligible for program benefits
93 shall remain eligible for a period of not less than one year from the
94 date determined to be eligible. The commissioner shall not make an
95 eligibility determination for a recipient of program benefits more than
96 one time per year.

97 ~~[(d)]~~ (f) [On or after January 1, 1998, a] A provider under the child
98 care subsidy program that qualifies for eligibility and subsequently
99 receives payment for child care services for recipients under this
100 section shall be reimbursed for such services until informed by the
101 Department of Social Services of the [parent's] recipient's ineligibility.

102 ~~[(e)]~~ (g) All licensed child care providers and those providers
103 exempt from licensing shall provide the Department of Social Services
104 with the following information in order to maintain eligibility for
105 reimbursement: (1) The name, address, appropriate identification,
106 Social Security number and telephone number of the provider and all
107 adults who work for or reside at the location where care is provided;
108 (2) the name and address of the child's doctor, primary care provider
109 and health insurance company; (3) whether the child is immunized
110 and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic
111 Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC
112 1396d; and (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

113 ~~[(f)]~~ (h) On or after January 1, 1998, the commissioner shall adopt
114 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
115 implement the provisions of this section.

116 ~~[(g)]~~ (i) The commissioner shall submit to the joint standing
117 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
118 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state
119 agencies a copy of the Child Care and Development Fund Plan that the

120 commissioner submits to the Administration for Children and Families
121 pursuant to federal law. The copy of the plan shall be submitted to the
122 committees not later than thirty days after submission of the plan to
123 the Administration for Children and Families.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	17b-749
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HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*